

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

January 24, 2017

Fire District Permit Fees

On December 20, 2016, the Board of Supervisors introduced an ordinance to update Title 32 of the Los Angeles County Code, which aligns the County Fire Code, including local enhancements, with the updated 2016 State Fire Code. The Board set a public hearing date of January 24, 2017, for final Board consideration. The Fire Code Ordinance includes necessary updates to the County Fire Code, adjustments to existing Fire Prevention fees and new fees for some Fire Prevention field inspections that are currently performed by the Fire District at no charge.

The Fire Prevention Fee proposal increases a variety of existing fire permit, building and plan check fees for the first time in ten years. During the most recent recession, the Board of Supervisors chose not to increase these fees, paid primarily by developers, homeowners and individuals starting new businesses, in order to minimize the economic burden placed on these groups. Fire Film Permit fees, however, were increased in 2011, with an expectation of full recovery of the cost of providing these services to the film, television and commercial industry. New and updated Fire

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Prevention fees, including Fire Film Permit fees, are expected to recover \$18.69 million (66.9%) of the \$27.9 million cost to administer the Fire Prevention Bureau. This \$18.69 million revenue estimate includes \$900,000 of additional revenue identified since the Board's December 20, 2016, action, reflecting increased estimates of permit activity. The remaining \$9.2 million in Fire Prevention Bureau costs are subsidized by other Fire District revenues, including Property Tax and other Fire District fees. The Fire District should seek to attain full cost-recovery for the Fire Prevention Bureau, so that Fire District revenues can be utilized for more essential fire, public safety and Emergency Medical Services system needs.

Fire Film Permit fees, a component of the larger Fire Prevention Fee proposal, are proposed to increase by an average of 12.1% for each of the four Fire Code Film Permit types. These updated fees, for general Fire Film, Fire Film Still Photo, Fire Film Pyrotechnics and Fire Film Fuel Truck permits, will generate an additional \$278,000 in the next full year. Due to a drafting error, the Fire Film Fuel Truck permit fee is proposed to increase from \$223.00 to \$241.00, but should, instead, be reduced to \$208.00. It is important that the Board of Supervisors deny approval of the proposed increases to Fire Film Fees as our local film, television and commercial industries continue to experience economic stress from loss of production that locates in other states or countries. For example, the Los Angeles County region captured only 39 percent of all television pilots in the current filming cycle (2015-16), the lowest share on record and the first time our region's share has fallen below 40 percent. In the 2006-07 pilot season, by contrast, our region's record share was 82 percent.

Los Angeles County's top competitors are New York, Georgia and Ontario,

Canada. The Board of Supervisors must do everything it can to reestablish Los Angeles County as a strong competitor by helping to create a film-friendly region and hold Fire Film permit fees at their current level. This is one step in the right direction to promote local filming and to strengthen our local film, television and commercial economy.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Instruct the Chief Forester and Fire Warden to submit a report in 240 days that includes a multi-year plan to gradually increase Fire Prevention Bureau fees, with the exception of Fire District Film Fees, to achieve full cost recovery for Fire Prevention Bureau costs, beginning in 14 months. The report should also include an analysis of the overall impact of full cost-recovery to Fire District clients and specific impacts to particular client groups.
2. Amend page 129 of the proposed Fire Code Ordinance to maintain the existing fees for general Film Permits, Pyrotechnics Permits and Still Photography Permits and to reduce the Film Fuel Truck permit fee from \$223.00 to \$208.00. A substitute page 129 making these changes is attached hereto as Exhibit A and should replace the existing page 129 in the ordinance.

Exhibit A

f) Any additional permits, including motion picture, commercial, and television productions, as required by the fire code official as determined in Section 105.6 of this code.

SECTION 196. Section 4803.4 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4803.4 Permit Fees.

Permit fees for permits required by Section 4803.2 and Section 105.6 shall be collected for the issuance of the following permits:

1. Motion picture, television, commercial, and related productions filming.

The permit fee shall be \$282.00.

2. Motion picture, television, commercial, and related production filming-Fuel-dispensing trucks and vehicles. The annual permit fee shall be \$22308.00.

3. Motion picture, television, commercials, and related production filming-Pyrotechnics and special effects. The permit fee shall be \$288.00.

4. Commercial still photography production outside of an approved production facility and where the on-site cast and crew numbers fifteen (15) or more persons. The permit fee shall be \$277.00.

SECTION 197. Section 4807.1.1 is hereby added to read as follows:

4807.1.1 Fire Safety Officers/Advisors.

When in the opinion of the fire code official it is necessary for the preservation of life or property, due to the hazardous nature of an event, production, operation, or function, the fire official shall require the owner or lessee to employ or cause the